

# NEWS

From

## Richard Alarcón

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### **COUNCILMEMBER ALARCON INTRODUCES RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT AB 1819 (PRICE), A BILL THAT GIVES YOUNG PEOPLE INCREASED OPPORTUNITY TO REGISTER TO VOTE**

**Los Angeles, CA** – Today Los Angeles City Councilmember Richard Alarcon introduced a resolution to support Assembly Bill 1819. AB 1819, which was introduced by Assemblymember Curren D. Price, Jr., allows a young person to pre-register to vote after they turn 16 years old if the registrant otherwise meets the all the requirements to register to vote.

Under the provisions in AB 1819, a person of at least 16 years of age would complete the same registration as any other person, but the registration would not be effective until the voter turned 18. Once a voter would be 18 years old by the time of the next election, his or her registration is activated and the voter would receive a sample ballot and other election materials for the first election in which he or she would be eligible to vote.

“The future of our democracy is dependent on our young people and they need to be brought into the political process as early as possible,” said Councilmember Richard Alarcon. “AB 1819 will ensure that more young people are engaged in the process and will help continue the momentum we have seen this year with more and more young people turning out to vote.”

Assemblymember Curren Price said, "AB 1819 is a bill that will help engage California youth in our government and ultimately strengthen the election process. I am deeply honored that Councilmember Alarcon shares my desire to get this historic legislation passed and I am grateful for his motion in support of AB 1819."

According to the Secretary of State, more than 7.2 million eligible voters in California are not registered to vote – which is equivalent to nearly one-third of California's eligible voters. Young voter participation is even lower, with approximately forty-five percent of eligible voters between the ages of 18 and 24 not registered to vote. California ranks just 36<sup>th</sup> in the nation for turnout among young voters. Research shows that young people who get involved in the political process at a young age are much more likely to become lifelong voters, so facilitating participation by younger voters can have positive long-term effects on overall voter participation.

To minimize the costs of AB 1819, the bill would not be effective until 2010, by which time the state will be using a new voter registration database that will have the capability for pre-registration built-in. Currently nine other states currently permit pre-registration by individuals. Support for AB 1819 includes Secretary of State Debra Bowen, the Greenlining Institute and the New America Foundation.

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